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Approved For Release 2003/05/05 : CIA-RDP80B01676R004300080010-8 *ER # 7-0288*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1955

Noted by *DDP*
13 May 55

Noted by *DCI*
AWD 13 May 55

MEMORANDUM FOR LT. GENERAL C. P. CABELL
Central Intelligence Agency

The President has approved the attached memorandum, subject to the changes which he made in the statement which are indicated in ink.

It is my understanding that Acting Secretary Hoover has approved the procedure on behalf of the State Department.

As soon as Deputy Secretary Murphy has checked with the British, he will communicate with Secretary Talbott, who should then take the steps called for in the memorandum approved by the President, subject to clearance with the Secretary of Defense.

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Nelson A. Rockefeller
Special Assistant

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/s/ Nelson A. Rockefeller

Nelson A. Rockefeller
Special Assistant

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Question Concerning Releasing of Latest Information on Soviet Aircraft. (See attached photographs and Fact Sheet)

On May 5 CIA briefed you at NSC on this subject.

At the OCB meeting yesterday, it was agreed that the following group should meet to develop recommendations for your consideration concerning the release of this information:

Mr. Nelson A. Rockefeller
Secretary Harold Talbott and Brig. General W. G. Hipps, USAF
Mr. Robert Murphy and Mr. Stoessel, STATE
General Cabell and
Mr. Robert Matteson and Col. R. B. Firehock, FOA
Mr. Andrew Berding, USIA
Mr. Elmer Staats, OCB

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At its meeting this afternoon the group felt that speed in getting the announcement out is of the essence because it would be embarrassing to the Executive Branch if the Armed Services Committees and the public learn of this information from abroad before they are officially informed.

Their unanimous recommendations were as follows:

1. The Armed Services Committee should be informed by the Air Force immediately upon receipt of Presidential approval.
2. Immediately thereafter the following statement should be released by the Air Force:

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2. (Continued) --

"The Soviets have recently elected to expose some new aircraft developments in air parade formation over Moscow. These observations establish a new basis of our estimate of Soviet production of the heavy jet bomber and of the medium bomber.

"There has also been an appearance of a turbo prop bomber, and a new all-weather fighter has appeared, as we expected. This knowledge is evidence of the ^{modern} advanced technology of the Soviet aircraft industry and the rapid advances which ^{are} being made by them."

3. That the British be informed of our plans prior to taking action in view of their cooperation in this matter.
4. That the pictures and background facts be made available at the Pentagon to the eleven "regulars" who cover the Air Force from the Press. These facts would cover the information on the attached fact sheet, but would not include any speculations as to the number of planes which they now have or can produce.

/s/ Nelson A. Rockefeller

Nelson A. Rockefeller